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SUBJECT: 11/4 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, DALAI LAMA TALKS, CHINESE OFFICIAL IN FRANCE, CHINA-EGYPT RELATIONS

¶1. Key points at the November 4 afternoon MFA press briefing were:

-- Though the spokesperson is "following the U.S. election closely" the choosing of the next President of the United States is the job of the American people.

-- The Dalai Lama should "take concrete actions to give up separatism and do something good for the Tibetan people in his lifetime."

-- The spokesperson did not have specifics on the case of a Chinese official who has overstayed his visa in France.

-- China and Egypt have established a "strategic partnership" and China hopes the two sides will continue high level exchanges.

U.S. Election

¶2. Asked about the upcoming U.S. Presidential Election at the November 4 regularly scheduled MFA press conference, the spokesperson said that he has been "following the election closely." Qin said that the next U.S. President "is a matter for the U.S. people to decide." Whoever is elected, China hopes U.S.-China relations will "continue to proceed" as this would be "good for world peace and the people of both countries."

Dalai Lama Talks

¶3. Qin referred reporters to "relevant authorities" when asked about upcoming talks between representatives of the Dalai Lama and the Chinese Central Government. Qin did say, however, that China's position on the Dalai Lama is "clear and consistent." The Dalai Lama should "take concrete actions to give up separatism and do something good for the Tibetan people in his lifetime," said Qin.

France Defection Case

¶4. The spokesman was "not aware of the specifics" of the case of Yang Xianghong a Chinese official who overstayed his visa to France. However, Qin said that China and the "relevant country" have had "cooperation and communication in judicial matters." Should any problems arise, "China hopes the judicial cooperation will play its role."

China Egypt Relations

¶5. China "attaches great importance to relations with Egypt" said Qin when asked to comment on the upcoming visit of the Egyptian Foreign Minister. China and Egypt have "established a strategic

partnership" and China hopes the two countries can continue exchanges of high level officials.

Visits

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16. President Hu Jintao will attend the G20 summit in Washington DC on November 15. Hu will also visit Peru to attend the 16th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting from November 22-23. Hu will visit Cuba, Costa Rica, Peru and Greece from November 16-26.

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